

# 2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Customer Focus—

### LA PLATA -Approved EQIP Proposal

Mr. Pedro Rivera, a limited resource farmer, operates a 44-acre farm devoted to a diversified operation. The operation includes a small herd of swine, crops, and a 20,000 capacity poultry barn. Mr. Rivera participates in all aspects of the operation and is a cooperater in the Cibuco Soil and Water Conservation District, which is 45 minutes from San Juan. Most of the farm is on moderately steep to steep land. The soils are of the Caguabo, Humatas, and Naranjito series. Water impairment is the principal hazard, and many of these soils are sufficiently eroded above their tolerance value. La Plata Reservoir, which serves potable water to the metropolitan area, is about 1 mile from the site location.

The waste management system for Mr. Rivera's farm consists of installation of liquid separator boxes and an infiltration ditch. By collecting the organic solids, the final product is used to fertilize plantains on 11 acres. Poultry manure is also used to supplement fertilizer application to plantains. Plantains are planted following guidelines by NRCS technicians. Minimum tillage basically reduces runoff and helps to trap sediment and pollutants.

## Caribbean Area Summary

### Overview

Agricultural waste is still the biggest challenge in the Caribbean Area. Most of the agricultural enterprises are generating waste that is not managed properly before reaching the soil and water. Environmental benefits from the installation of sound conservation practices are the reduction of organic waste discharges that impair the waterbodies, signed contracts that will comply with local regulations, and the wise use of organic waste as a source of fertilizer, which will reduce costs from chemical fertilizer.

### Outlook

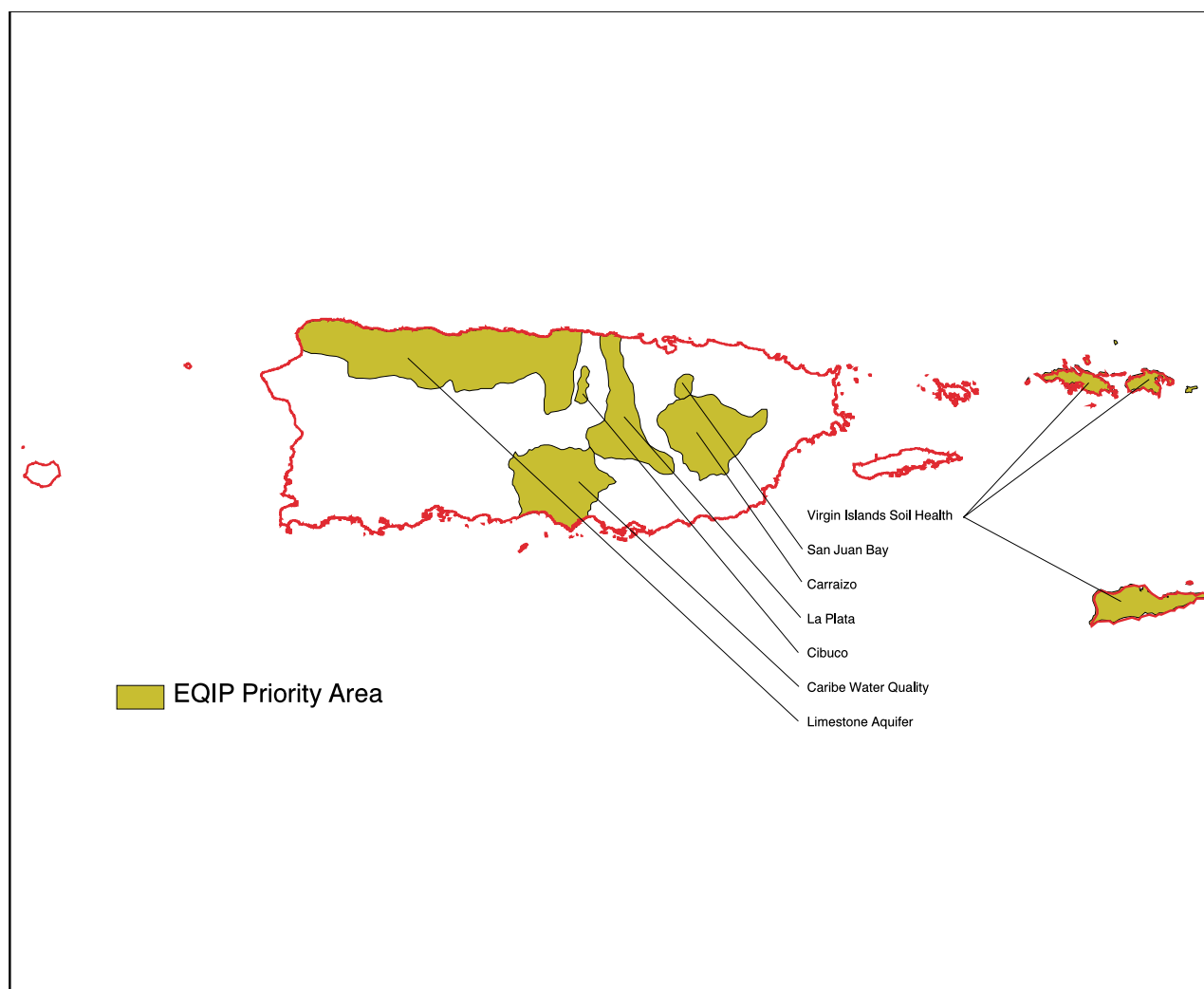
Land treatment is critically needed in the Caribbean Area. Additional funding would ensure continued financial incentives to existing program operation as well as to new proposal requests.

### State Contact

Manuel A. Román, Assistant Director, (787) 766-5206



## Caribbean Area EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



## Caribbean Area EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
Puerto Rico	\$460,581	96	\$2,295,559	379
U.S. Virgin Islands	121,536	34	291,463	96
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$582,117</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>\$2,587,022</b>	<b>475</b>

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas, which may include more than one district.

Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns, which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.